

Delegates Macdonald, Maurer, E. J. Clarke, Morgan, Beachley:

On page 3, section 7, General Elections, line 22, after the word "elected" insert the following: ", except that officials serving on a staggered term basis may be elected every two years."

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment has been offered by Delegate Macdonald, seconded by Delegates Maurer, E. J. Clarke, Morgan and Beachley.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Macdonald to speak to the amendment.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: May I first inquire whether Delegate Henderson or any other delegate has an amendment which would allow judges to be elected in any even-numbered year?

THE CHAIRMAN: He does, and that is the amendment the Chair just suggested he consider jointly with Delegates Raley and Gallagher.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: Then I will speak simply to this amendment, Mr. Chairman.

We have adopted a local government article which will allow each county in the State to adopt its own form of local government, its own structure of government.

Some counties may wish to have their county council, their elected governing body, elected on a staggered term basis. This amendment would allow that.

Without this amendment, I do not believe that any county government could have its officials elected on a staggered term basis unless they wanted to serve for eight years, and I do not think that we should imprison any elected official for that term in office.

Therefore, I would suggest that you adopt this amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions of the sponsor of the amendment?

Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: I would ask Delegate Macdonald if he will accept the insertion of a few words in his amendment prior to "except that officials serving on a staggered basis". The paragraph would read, with his amendment:

"A general election shall be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, 1970, and every fourth year

thereafter at which time state officials shall be elected."

THE CHAIRMAN: No, there is another phrase in there. The phrase "state officials and county officials except Baltimore City officials" was added by the amendment.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: After the word "elected", add "including the approval or rejection of judges".

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Macdonald.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: Mr. Chairman, I understand that Judge Henderson, or some other delegate who has served on the Judicial Branch Committee, is going to offer an appropriate amendment. For that reason I do not believe it is necessary or, indeed, advisable to tangle with this one. So, I would not accept that wording.

THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other additions?

Delegate Weidemeyer.

DELEGATE WEIDEMEYER: Speaking about election of governors, technically they are not elected any more. They are approved or rejected. Therefore, I thought we could include it all in one amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: He has rejected your suggestion, Delegate Weidemeyer.

Are there any other questions?

Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: I would like to ask a question of Delegate Macdonald.

When you say "except that officials serving on a staggered term basis", do I take that to mean county officials?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Macdonald.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: It is certainly directed at county officials. I do not know of any other officials who are or may be elected on a staggered term basis.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Carson.

DELEGATE CARSON: Would you accept an amendment to add the word "county" after the word "officials"?

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Macdonald.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: No, I do not believe that is necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well, Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Do you intend that this exception apply to the counties but not to Baltimore City?